

# COALITION FOR VIRGINIANS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

*Join Other Advocates in Richmond at the  
Coalition Rally!*

**Monday, January 15, 2007**  
**10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

## Place

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church  
Southwest Corner of 9th and Grace Streets

## Purpose

*Learn About the Issues. Meet With Your Legislators and Tell Your Story.*

## COALITION FOR VIRGINIANS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

*The Coalition for Virginians with Mental Disabilities was formed twenty years ago to work on behalf of Virginians with mental illness, mental retardation, and substance use disorder. We advocate for an array of community services that is sufficient and adequate to meet the needs of each individual and for quality care in all service delivery systems and settings. Members of the Coalition are consumers, family members, and organizations that support people with disabilities.*

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

*Family Advocacy Creating Education and Services (FACES), Federation of Families of Virginia, Mental Health Association of Virginia, NAMI Virginia, Parents & Associates of the Institutionalized Retarded (PAIR), Psychiatric Society of Virginia, Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia (SAARA), The Arc of Virginia, VaACCSES, Virginia Network of Private Providers, Virginia Organization of Consumers Asserting Leadership (VOCAL), Virginia Rehabilitation Association, Voices for Virginia's Children*

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**COALITION FOR VIRGINIANS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES**  
2025 East Main Street, Suite 120, Richmond, VA 23223

**2007 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**TRANSFORMATION TO A CONSUMER DRIVEN SYSTEM**

The Coalition commends the Governor and members of the General Assembly for supporting efforts to transform our service delivery system to one that is consumer-driven. With adequate supports and services that are driven by the values of self-determination, empowerment, and recovery, consumers with mental disabilities can live and participate successfully in their home communities. The Coalition's Legislative Agenda supports additional transformation activities and reflects only a small portion of the funds required to meet the needs of the 14,930 individuals on waiting lists as documented in the DMHMRSAS 2006-2012 Comprehensive State Plan.

**PRIORITY BUDGET ISSUES**

**ALL DISABILITIES**

- Preserve existing Medicaid services and preserve essential services for Virginians with disabilities regardless of the status of federal funding.
- Fund Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS) for 1,000 adults who need follow-along services to remain employed.
- Fund 10 Continuum of Care jail diversion pilots using all components of the Sequential Intercept Model.
- Fund 7 Geriatric System of Care demonstration projects to create a community-based system of care for seniors with significant infirmities of aging and MI, MI/MR or SUD.

**PART C/ EARLY INTERVENTION**

- Provide funding for services to over 800 additional infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities in FY 07-08 in recognition of a consistent 8% growth in referrals.

**CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES**

- Fund 6 new system of care projects designed to serve Juvenile Justice involved youth, MH/MR, MH/SA, MH/MR/SA youth using a variety of evidence-based practices designed to assist families and youth, keeping families intact to the greatest extent possible.
- Provide permanent funding for the 5 detention center projects whose grant funding expires in 2008 and fund 8 additional detention center projects in designated localities that have demonstrated planning and coordination readiness.
- Increase the workforce providing psychiatric services for children by funding child psychiatry fellowships and internships; fund a variety of training opportunities; and establish a university-based teaching center to promote evidence-based services and best practices for children's behavioral health treatment statewide.
- Expand funding for a statewide family education, information and support network; link families with support systems; and educate the public about the needs of children with behavioral health issues.
- Fund 40 evidence-based prevention models designed to reduce youth underage alcohol consumption, which is currently among the highest in the nation when compared with other states. Evaluate each project using baseline and updated information from the State Police regarding the risks of underage alcohol consumption, teen vehicular accident and death rates.

## **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES**

- Provide funding for 3,000 consumers, including those with opioid and/or methamphetamine addictions, into recovery with best practice service package to include: detox, psychiatry, medications, crisis, residential, case management, intensive outpatient, and recovery support services.
- Expand Medicaid Mental Health Services to include certain services for substance use disorders. These services include assessment and evaluation, crisis intervention, case management, outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment and medical detox.
- Provide funding for Drug Court Treatment Services.
- Support a study of the socio-economic impact of substance use disorder in Virginia.

## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

- Provide funding for intensive services for 1,000 consumers with SMI/SUD to promote wellness, recovery and improved self-management. These services include psychiatry, medications, PACT/ICT, inpatient bed purchase, crisis stabilization, and both intensive and stable residential services. Intensive services will address emerging high-risk issues and will include services for consumers with hearing impairments as well as services for certain substance use disorders or forensics issues.
- Provide funding to develop and implement 7 regional consumer-operated pilot projects designed to provide direct services to promote wellness recovery and improved self-management.
- Support initiatives to provide stable, affordable housing for people with mental illness, such as a proposed pilot for use of auxiliary grant funds for independent supported housing of the consumer's choice.

## **MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES**

- Fund a 14% rate increase in all MR Waiver services.
- Provide funding for a geographic differential in all MR Waiver rates for areas of the state with high costs of living (some services such as employment and residential do not have a differential).
- Fund 1,000 new community Mental Retardation (MR) Waiver slots with start-up funds for individuals on the Urgent Care Wait List.
- Fund services for 1,000 individuals not on the MR Waiver and/or not eligible for the MR Waiver.
- Provide funding to create a system of services for individuals who have co-occurring MI/MR or MI/MR/SA that would include training, quality of care, and on-going technical assistance for residential providers.
- Develop two additional Regional Community Support Centers (RCSC's) associated with Training Centers to provide clinical, psychological, dental, and other support services for individuals living in the community, and expand services at existing RCSC's.
- Support budget language to direct DMHMRSAS in conjunction with related state agencies and stakeholders to review and make recommendations for the development and funding of a full continuum of care for consumers with mental retardation. Recommendations would be made to the Governor and the General Assembly for the 2008-10 biennium. This study would include all aspects of funding the continuum, including Medicaid and Medicaid Waivers.

## **GETTING READY FOR THE RALLY**

The Coalition for Virginians with Mental Disabilities will hold its annual General Assembly Rally on Monday, January 15 at 10 AM in St. Paul's Church in Richmond. You need to put the date on your calendar and plan your transportation. In addition, there are five more things you need to do beforehand to be ready for the Rally.

1. Find out who represents you in the Virginia Senate and Virginia House of Delegates. If you have Internet access, you can get this information at <http://legis.state.va.us>. Otherwise, call your local voter registration office and they can give you the information. Write down their home district mailing address, their e-mail address and their Richmond office phone number.
2. Review the Coalition's legislative agenda. As usual, it primarily focuses on increased funding for services to people with mental illness, mental retardation, and substance use disorders.
3. Contact your legislator by letter or by e-mail to let him or her know you will be in Richmond on January 15 and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with either the legislator or the legislative aide. Let them know that you are especially interested in funding for mental health, mental retardation, and substance use disorder services. Include a few words about why this is of interest to you. Invite your legislator to join you at the Rally between 10 AM and 11 AM at St. Paul's Church.
4. The week of January 8, call your legislator's office in Richmond to remind them that you will be in Richmond the following week and are looking forward to seeing them. Remind your legislator that they are welcome to attend the Rally and you hope to see them there.
5. Plan and rehearse what you will say to your legislators or to their aides when you visit them. Connect what you say to the budget and legislation that are under consideration. You may want to put it in writing for them.

Hit a snag or have a question? Call your local Community Services Board. They will be able to steer you in the right direction.

**See you in Richmond on Monday, January 15!**